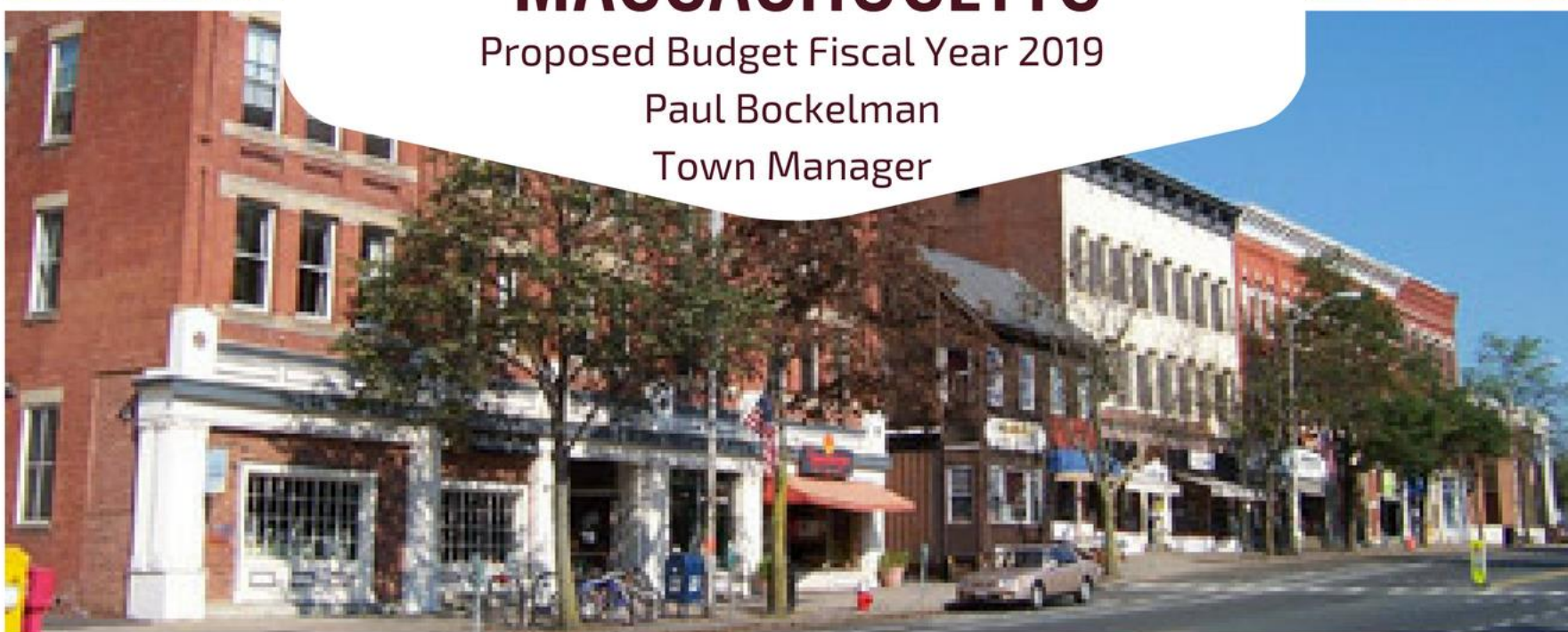


# Amherst MASSACHUSETTS

Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 2019

Paul Bockelman

Town Manager



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## Executive Summary

- Maintains Solid Financial Position
- Operating Budget Increase of 3.5%
- Aligns with Select Board Policy Guidelines
- Complies with Finance Committee Guidelines
- Key Initiatives Addressed



## Progress Built on Financial Strength

- Key General Budget Notes:
  - Total budget increase of 3.5%
  - Increases capital to 9.0%
  - Reserves at 16.5%
    - Free cash at \$3.8 M
    - Stabilization at \$8.9 M
- Sustains Core Services in Operating Budgets



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## Progress Built on Financial Strength

- Operating Budget Includes:
  - Contractual payroll requirements
  - Significant increases in employer share of health insurance premiums
  - No additional staff positions

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## FY 19 Driving Factors

### Revenues – Strong Growth

- Property Tax, +4.1%
- Local Receipts, +4.3% (motor vehicle excise, permit revenues, etc.)

### Expenses – Employee Health Insurance

- 3.5% increase to Operating Budget allows Town, Schools and Libraries to manage their resources





# The Big Picture

- Sustainability and resiliency
  - Energy efficient buildings
  - Commitment to solar
  - Solid waste reduction
  - Sustainability working group



# The Big Picture

- Roads, Sidewalks, Crosswalks
  - Walkable
  - Bikeable
  - Complete Streets



# The Big Picture

- Investing in Built Infrastructure
  - New Department of Public Works facility
  - New Fire Department facility
  - Other Capital needs (Schools, Libraries, etc.)
  - Maintenance





# The Big Picture

- Planning for the Future
  - Downtown
  - Village Centers
  - Affordable housing



# The Big Picture

- Employee Health Insurance
  - Continuing trend of high claims has consumed the Health Trust balance
  - Employer share of premiums is 75-80%
  - Exploring all options
    - Insurance Advisory Committee



# The Big Picture

- Fire Staffing
  - Staffing study completed
  - Working group reviewing results
  - Town of Hadley contract



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## The Big Picture

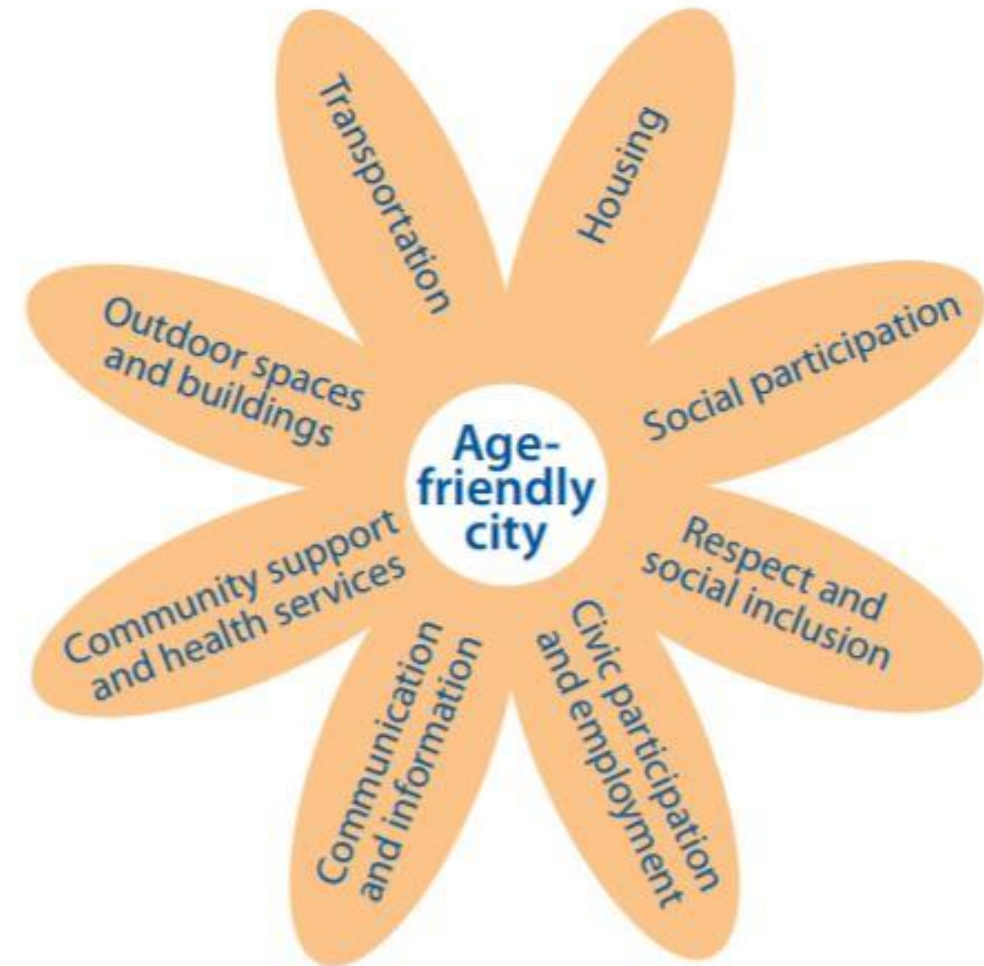
- Efficiency in Town operations
  - LSSE reorganization
  - Property and casualty insurance competitive bid
  - Evaluating ambulance billing options
  - Surplus real property
  - Regionalization of Dispatch





## The Big Picture

- Age-friendly community
  - Walkability
  - Aging in place
  - Services and opportunities
  - Parks and playgrounds



# Investing in our Community

- Renovations on the North Common
- Renewal of Groff Park
- Locating a Dog Park
- Solar on the North Landfill
- Implementing BikeShare
- Coming up:
  - Puffers Pond
  - Cherry Hill Golf Course
  - Water system supply and resiliency

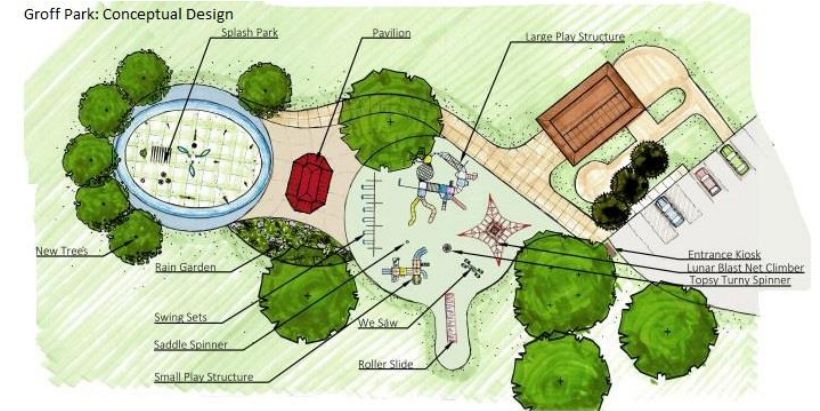


Image Larry Kelly

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## FY19: Revenues

- Property Taxes: 2.5% increase plus new growth and local receipts = 4.3% Increase
- State Aid: 20% of budget; 1.8% Increase Projected
- Water Rates: 0% Increase Requested
- Sewer Rates: 4% Increase Requested



## FY19 Budget: Overview

Fund	Amount	Change
General Fund	\$23,844,470	+3.5%
Water Fund	\$4,472,188	+2.3%
Sewer Fund	\$4,525,876	+5.2%
Solid Waste Fund	\$487,270	+3.7%
Transportation Fund	\$1,164,370	+13.7%





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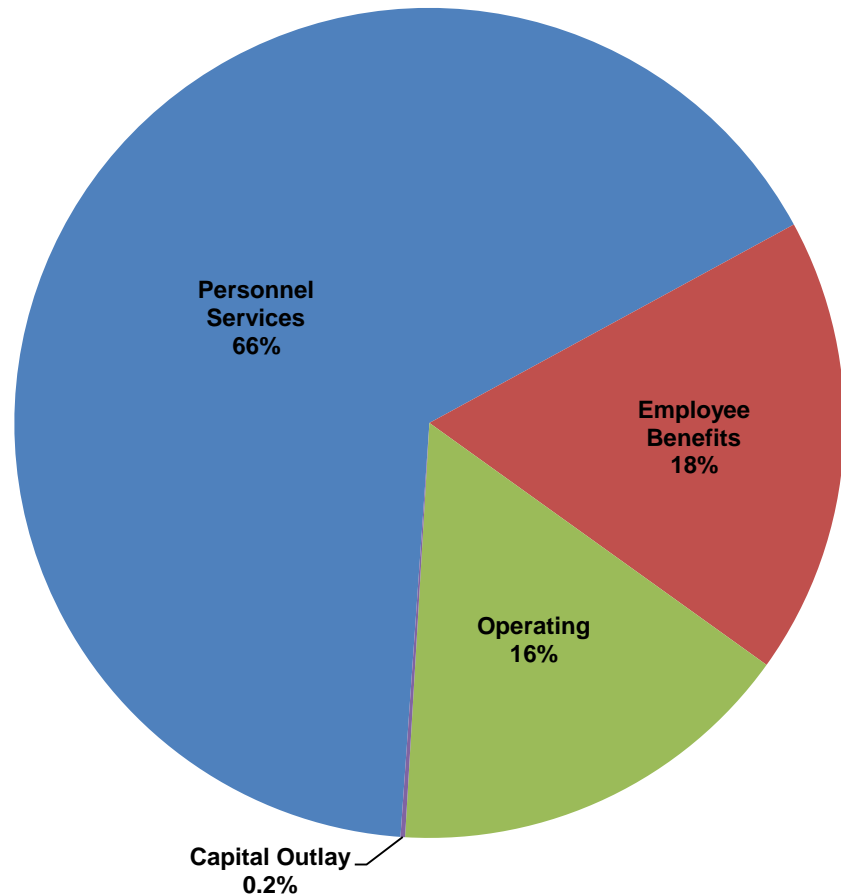
## FY19 Budget: General Fund

- General Government: 11.1% Increase
- Which includes:

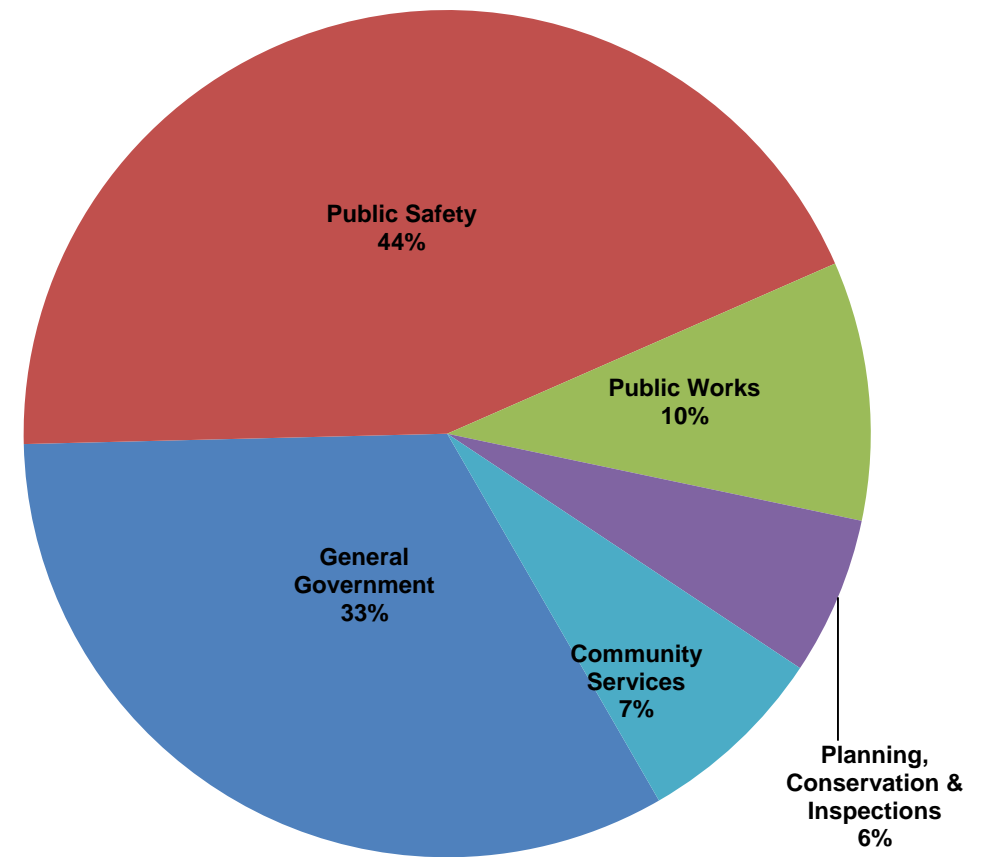


# FY19 Operating Budget

## FY 19 Expenditures by Type



## FY 19 Expenditures by Functional Area



## Public Safety: 0.8% Increase

### Includes:

- Contractual salary increases, except for police patrol and firefighters unions (makes budget increase artificially low)
- Ambulance service and Town of Hadley
- Fire staffing study



## Public Works: 1.2% Increase

Includes:

- Contractual salary increases





## Conservation and Development: 1.3% Increase

Includes:

- Contractual salary increases



## Community Services: 6.0% Decrease

### Includes:

- Contractual salary increases
- Reorganization of LSSE
- Reduction in hours for Health Director
- Leisure Services and Supplemental Education (LSSE) budget includes \$105,000 to support fee subsidies for LSSE programs



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## Other Expenditures:

- Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)
  - Fund balance as of 6/30/17: \$3.9 million
  - Budgeted an additional \$100,000, increasing to \$500,000 in FY19
  - Annual Required Contributions being made by Enterprise Funds



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## Enterprise Funds:

- Water Fund 2.3% Increase
- Sewer Fund 5.2% Increase
- Solid Waste Fund 3.7% Increase
- Transportation Fund 13.7% Increase





# Possible Budget Additions

## FY19 Prioritized List of Budget Additions Should Funds Become Available

Department	Description	FTE	Total
Fire	Firefighter/paramedic (dayshift)	2.00	\$134,465
Personnel	Extra help wage increase		\$10,000
			<b>\$144,465</b>



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## Conclusion & Acknowledgments:

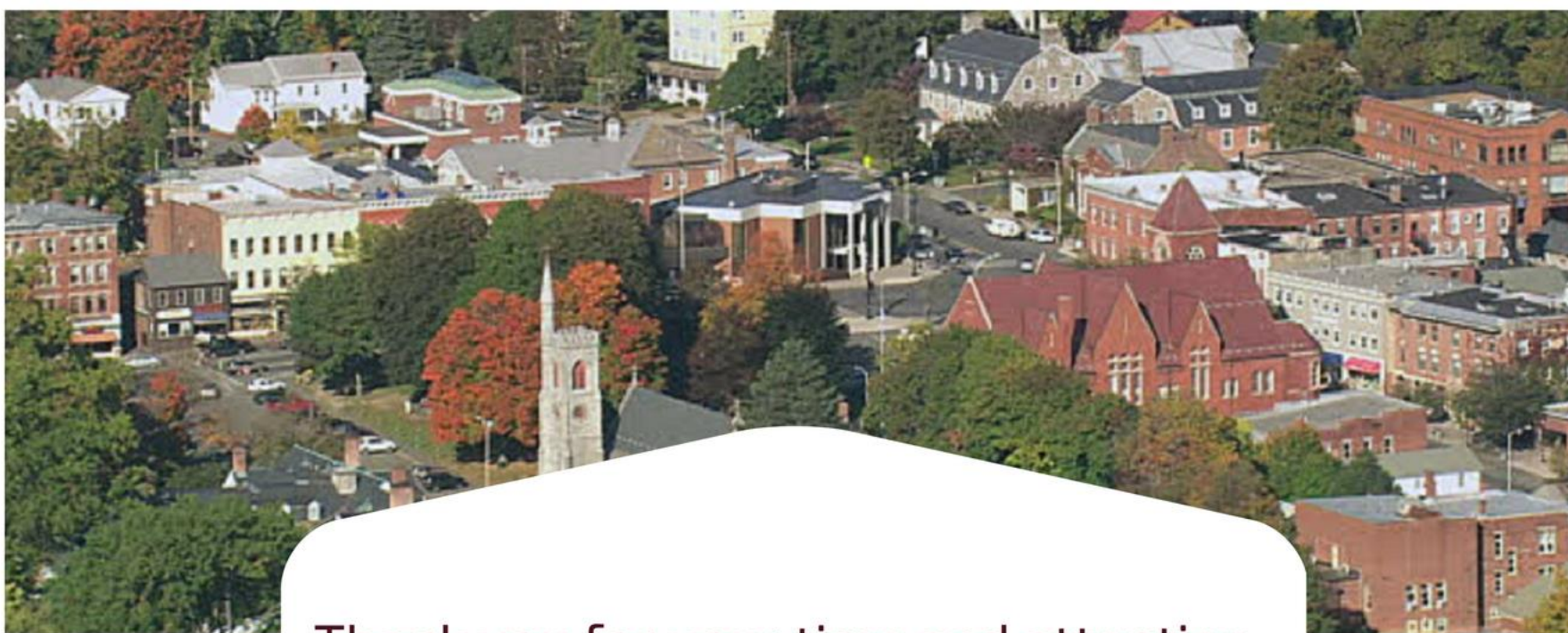


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◀ Comments, thoughts,  
questions? ▶

Contact us at: [townmanager@amherstma.gov](mailto:townmanager@amherstma.gov)  
Visit us at: [www.amherstma.gov/budget](http://www.amherstma.gov/budget)  
to access this presentation and related documents





Thank you for your time and attention.

